

10/679952

<sup>20</sup>  
Please replace paragraph [0021] of the Specification with the following replacement paragraph:

<sup>20</sup>  
-- [0021] Owing to the birefringence of the PM fiber, any single segment of PM fiber attached to the coupler fiber in the sample path will result in unequal optical path-lengths for the two channels. Now referring to the sample path in FIGURE 1, when two equal length segments of PM fiber are spliced at 90° to each other, total optical path-length traversed by light in Ch1 and Ch2 is equal. In one embodiment of the sample path, there are two segments spliced to the PM fiber: segment A and segment B. One end of segment A 20 (20) is spliced at 0° to the coupler fiber 18 and the other end is spliced to segment B 22 (22) at 90°. In general, the length of segment A 20 (20) is equivalent to that of segment B 22 (22). Here, a 90° splice interchanges the two channels, i.e., Ch1 completely couples into the Ch2 and vice-versa and provide equal path-length between channels. Segment B 22 (22) is terminated with a connector 22 that may be an angle-cleaved connector. The connector 22 is attached to a collimator 24. --

RP  
10/23/06